

# HEALTH BOARD AND LEGISLATORS

F. J. LOWREY,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL DOLE,  
DR. EMERSON,  
DR. CHARLES B. COOPER,  
E. C. WINSTON.

PRESIDENT RAYMOND.

Members of the Board of Health  
against local self-government at  
the Loper Settlement.

favors a Commission of three mem-  
bers—one from Settlement, one  
from Board of Health, one select-  
ed by first two.

in favor of local self-government.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

LOCAL self-government for the lepers at the Settlement at Kalaupapa, Molokai, is not deemed by the Board of Health the solution of the problem by which the thousands of lepers there can be satisfied with their cheerless existence. The Board of Health, to a man, is against any proposition whereby the lepers would have absolute control of their affairs, without the controlling hand of a department of the government.

For three hours yesterday afternoon the Board of Health and the joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on public health discussed this important matter, and the opinions of the members of the board were freely given on many questions which were put to them. The members from the upper house were Senators Russell, Baldwin, Kalaupapa, Kalaue, Kaohi, Kanuha, Nakapahu, The Representatives were Messrs. Beckley, Wilcox and Gillilan. Both committees were accompanied by clerks.

Senator Baldwin lost no time in getting down to business.

The petition from the residents of the Loper Settlement, presented to the Legislature through Chairman R. M. Kanao, adopted at a meeting held in the Beretania Hall, at Kalaupapa, on February 20, were presented to the board, and the first request therein was put squarely to the board, as follows:

"That the local management of the Settlement be given by a law enacted therefor to the persons segregated there."

Mr. Lowrey, who occupied the chair in the absence of President Raymond on Maui, stated that he did not believe that the board as a body was prepared to answer the question off-hand, but he believed that the members as individuals, would be glad to express themselves upon the subject.

President Russell, of the Senate, suggested that the desire of the people was to be set apart as a township. Mr. Baldwin stated in reply that the petitioners did not so state their request for self-government.

"What is the board's view?" asked Senator Baldwin.

The opinion of each member of the board follows:

F. J. Lowrey—"For myself, after reading the reports of the statements that were made at Molokai during the visit of the Legislature, it would seem undesirable to have local self-government there, on account of the objections of many of the people segregated, and from what I have seen of conditions there personally."

Dr. Emerson—"When the Settlement was first established, it was to a large extent, self-governed, and there was very little government exercised over it from Honolulu. The result was a great deal of confusion. I notice in the testimony given by many of the lepers, and especially by one named Way, self-government is not desired, as with the changes of health among the lepers they were liable to fall ill and that unfitted them from carrying on work of a governing character. They are not virtually sick men, and I agree with his view, and believe that local self-government would not be an advantage."

"Again, the question of finances is one of great moment. How are the expenses to be met by these people? How would any such officer who presides over them be paid? How would the division of funds and food, which are now effected by men who have superior abilities in that line, be made? The people have always been regarded as wards of the country. It is a permanent quarantine, and to give local government to the inmates, the same as to inmates of any other quarantine station, would have to be thought of most seriously before it was granted."

Attorney General Dole—"It seems to me that it would be the same as self-government in a hospital—not practicable."

E. C. Winston—"In some ways they might be competent to govern themselves, but in finances it requires trained persons to disburse. It is possible there might be such a person there, but I believe it would be a very unwise thing to grant self-government."

Dr. Charles B. Cooper—"I don't believe that local self-government could be successfully carried on, but I believe in their having representation, say, having two representatives on the commission. I believe in their having representation, but not in the majority."

President Raymond's views on the subject were told by Executive Officer Pratt, as follows: He believed in a commission of from three to five of the residents of the Settlement. He thought that three would be the best number—one to be selected by the lepers, one to be appointed by the board, and the third to be selected by these two. As for financial matters President Raymond thought a superintendent should be appointed to work with this commission, and he should make bi-monthly or monthly trips to the Settlement, and all complaints made by lepers in regard to the management of affairs, insufficiency of the water and food supplies, or any difficulty be referred to the commission for arbitration, with a final submission of the matters to the Board of Health in case the commission were unable to agree.

Mr. Dole—"It strikes me that Dr. Raymond's idea would be a good one." Senator Kalaupapa asked for Dr. Cooper's opinion on President Raymond's suggestion.

Dr. Cooper—"My ideas are practically along the same lines."

Thus, briefly, the Board of Health, individually, has expressed its disfavor with the local self-government project. The composite opinion is that the lepers are sick people and inclined to take the steady view of every matter

cost of putting in water pipes and leading water to this new taro land, in all about 150 acres, would be in the neighborhood of \$20,000. There were 100 acres now being cultivated near the Settlement, and this was only half the quantity of acreage needed to supply taro for the Settlement the year around.

Request number 3, that a steam vessel be owned by the Board of Health for transporting freight from the other islands to the Settlement, was agreed upon by health members and legislators as a necessity, and it lays with the board to appropriate the money to purchase it.

The meeting then took up a consideration of the complaints made to the Legislature by R. M. Kanao, Thomas K. Nathaniel, Andrew Auld, W. K. Makakoa, G. W. K. Palaualele, Kimo Kuale, J. H. Hulihua, George J. Kanikau, William Sapala Jr., J. M. Kaili, James J. Foster, John Kakaiki, William Kanauli, J. Harret and Chas. M. N. Brewster.

The complaints and suggestions were taken up in their order, discussed, and the opinions of the board members taken down by the legislators' stenographers. The first was:

"That the Board of Health be prohibited from claiming any share in the taro produced by the farmers of Wai'oulu."

Reynolds stated that in former years Wai'oulu valley was taboo to the lepers, and they had to have a special permit to go near the place. The valley was kept by the health board in dry season for breeding stock. For years a tax was levied on the lepers for the use of the taro on that land that they should receive half the taro so produced. That arrangement was later changed so that the lepers received three-fourths of their husbandry. When Reynolds started the planting, Ambrose Hutchinson was assistant superintendent, and he says that all were very well satisfied with the arrangement. Senator Kalaupapa inquired whether this agreement was in writing, and received an affirmative reply.

Senator Russell asked whether the people there had to pay a ground rent for the taro lands, and was told that the sharing of the taro was the payment. The board in return had fenced off the plots to keep out the wild hogs. Superintendent Reynolds said the taro raisers were paid 57½ cents for palai, consisting of twenty-one pounds of hard pol, which is equal to about thirty-five pounds of taro. This ration was served out once a week.

"That the Board of Health be made to pay for the carriage of freight for the lepers from all the islands of the group."

Mr. Lowrey replied to this request that all goods were now carried from Honolulu to the Settlement, free of charge to the lepers, but no arrangement was in vogue to carry such freight from the other islands to Honolulu, and thence to the Settlement. He pointed out the evils of this sys-

tem, whereby some would take advantage of it and send absolutely useless packages, which would in time become a burden of expense.

To the request that all the houses at the Settlement be whitewashed, the board agreed, and will purchase a spraying machine for this purpose.

The request which caused the greatest comment was as follows:

"That the children born of leprosy women be given full food and fish allowance, as well as wearing supplies to exceed the value of \$10 a year."

Superintendent Reynolds explained that such children are given half rations until they are old enough to get work about the Settlement. In time they are supposed to earn enough to feed and clothe themselves. There was no particular age at which the rations were stopped. Some patients continued to enjoy them until they were twenty-one years of age. Reynolds said there was always plenty of work for them to perform, for which they were paid. Such children, were of course a burden upon the Settlement. Being well and not tainted by leprosy, they should be given their full share in the islands, but all such attempts in the past had failed, resulting at one time in the shedding of blood. When the board attempted to remove these children they met with such a determined resistance that the plan was abandoned and the children now grow up in the Settlement with leprosy persons. At present there are eighty-seven such children at Kalaupapa.

Mr. Dole said if these children were brought to Honolulu they would make better citizens than if allowed to stay on Molokai, but Dr. Emerson and Superintendent Reynolds both declared that unless the parents were willing they should leave them. The attempt to remove them would be futile. It was also said that children born lepers, are given full rations from the time they are able to eat the foods supplied by the board.

It was stated that President Raymond strongly advocated the erection of a home in Honolulu for non-leprosy boys and girls. There was a home here already for non-leprosy girls, but no institution for boys. The consensus of opinion of the board members, and that of a few of the legislators, was that the Legislature should appropriate a sum of money for that purpose.

It was agreed that the request for cash in lieu of clothes be denied.

The request to be allowed to erect stores in competition with the Board of Health provoked considerable discussion, in which it was brought out that many of the lepers believed the board's wares were selling too high. It was pointed out that under a new ruling the board was selling goods with the cost of conducting the store included. The petitioners claimed that much of the food at the government store was unfit to eat, that the hams were mouldy, and the canned goods rotten. There was also a lack of the

necessaries of life, such as potatoes and rice, and it was always a case of "first come, first served."

Senator Kalaupapa said he had taken a few memorandums of prices at Kalaupapa. Shoes which sold in Honolulu for \$1.25 were sold there at \$1.35; tin pans, selling here for 50 cents, were sold at the Settlement for 55 cents. He believed the matter of prices should be looked after.

The request for free postage will be referred to Washington.

The request for one-fourth of a cord of fuel once a month will be granted if the Legislature sees fit to make an appropriation covering that item. The board passed the request, and it is now up to the solons.

As to allowing the importation of awa, not to "exceed two stumps at each sending," the board announced that a resolution had been passed some months since prohibiting awa in the Settlement, except in the physician's store.

The lepers also want the health board to dig the graves of deceased persons, instead of compelling them to perform this work. They complain that in many cases their hands were unutilized for such tasks. The report of the president of the Board of Health ending December 31, 1900, was distributed among those present. This showed that 23 persons had died at the Settlement in two years—averaging about nine a month. Superintendent Reynolds said the cost for digging a grave was about \$2. Mr. Lowrey stated that if the Legislature was of a mind to make this concession, an appropriation of \$40 or \$500 would have to follow.

The request that a law be enacted providing for the examination of clean lepers biennially called forth a long statement from Superintendent Reynolds as to the manner in which persons declared lepers, and in whom the taint was not prominent, are examined at the Settlement. He stated that in the majority of cases the people did not want to be sent away from Molokai. Among those who are receiving full rations as lepers there is a feeling that if they are declared not lepers their food supplies will be cut off and they will have to work for their living if they stay at Molokai.

This brings out the fact that there really are persons who would rather be termed lepers than clean, and that it is more to their liking to be herded about the world as unclean.

Representative Beckley inquired whether persons requested to appear before the examining board feared to do so, and whether they were ordered summarily to go before the physicians. Mr. Reynolds stated it was generally left to their own volition to appear, but very often when the physicians are at the Settlement they disappear for a day or two and cannot be found, turning up after the departure of the board.

Senator Baldwin then stated that several of the lepers, including one Kanui, had said to the legislators that they considered themselves clean and

## NOT HEREDITARY

In the main, consumption is not hereditary; it is infectious. People are too afraid of heredity; better not think of the subject at all. Infection occurs continually.

Low vital force is hereditary; which gives consumption its chance. And infection plants it.

Between the two, the crop is a big one: about one-sixth of the human race, so far as is known.

We suppose it needn't be 5 per cent. if people would take fair care and Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil.

The care saves life in all ways; the emulsion is specially aimed at the lungs, beside its general food-effect.

We'll send you a little try, if you like.  
SCOTT & BOWNE, 400 Pearl Street, New York.

desired to be allowed to return to the other islands. There were ten such persons who had made similar statements to the legislators, which appeared in the voluminous report that has been printed by the Legislature.

One of the Board of Health members inquired whether the Settlement physician had declared they were not lepers, but got no reply.

Senator Kanuha launched into the matter and put several questions to the board, which Dr. Emerson answered. He thought it was not right to have persons not affected with leprosy, living there on the public land if they were not lepers they should be released. Dr. Emerson said that was a matter which could not be definitely decided. The men might not be afflicted with leprosy in a decided form at certain periods, yet it was possible the disease would break out violently, and no one could say that this or that man was cured because the disease seemed to be arrested. Kanuha thought that such persons should be segregated from those known to have leprosy, and if they were really cured they would not again be tainted. Dr. Emerson thought that was impracticable on Molokai, and said that the whole social system there would be broken up if that were done, probably with bad results. Senator Kanuha was told that if these ten men wanted to get away from the Settlement they should present themselves for examination to Dr. Oliver, medical superintendent at Kalaupapa, and say "We don't believe we are lepers," and if they were really not lepers then they would be released, but not otherwise.

Senator Kalaue asked if the physician at the Settlement made any pretense at treating the disease. Dr. Emerson replied that no systematic treatment was attempted, as it was usually too tiresome to the patients, as it broke in too much into their social life, and they did not have the patience to stand the treatment day after day.

The lepers also asked that their allowance of palai be increased from twenty-one to twenty-five pounds per week. One of the petitioners most anxious to have this increase made was Noley, a leper, who raised taro in large quantities, which he sold to the Board of Health. His reasons were quite apparent.

The board agreed with the legislators that the lepers should occasionally have mutton to alternate with beef. The lepers had complained of the quality of the beef, claiming that the methods pursued by the superintendent in keeping cattle confined for a month in a pen wherein they sank to their bellies in mud, were such as to make the beef poor. The methods of butchering were also criticised. Mr. Reynolds denied that the cattle were kept at the Settlement for a month, and said "they were miserably poor when received."

Gillilan suggested that the board bring the cattle to the government lands near Kawaihine, Hawaii, fatten and kill them there, ship the beef in cold storage to Kalaupapa.

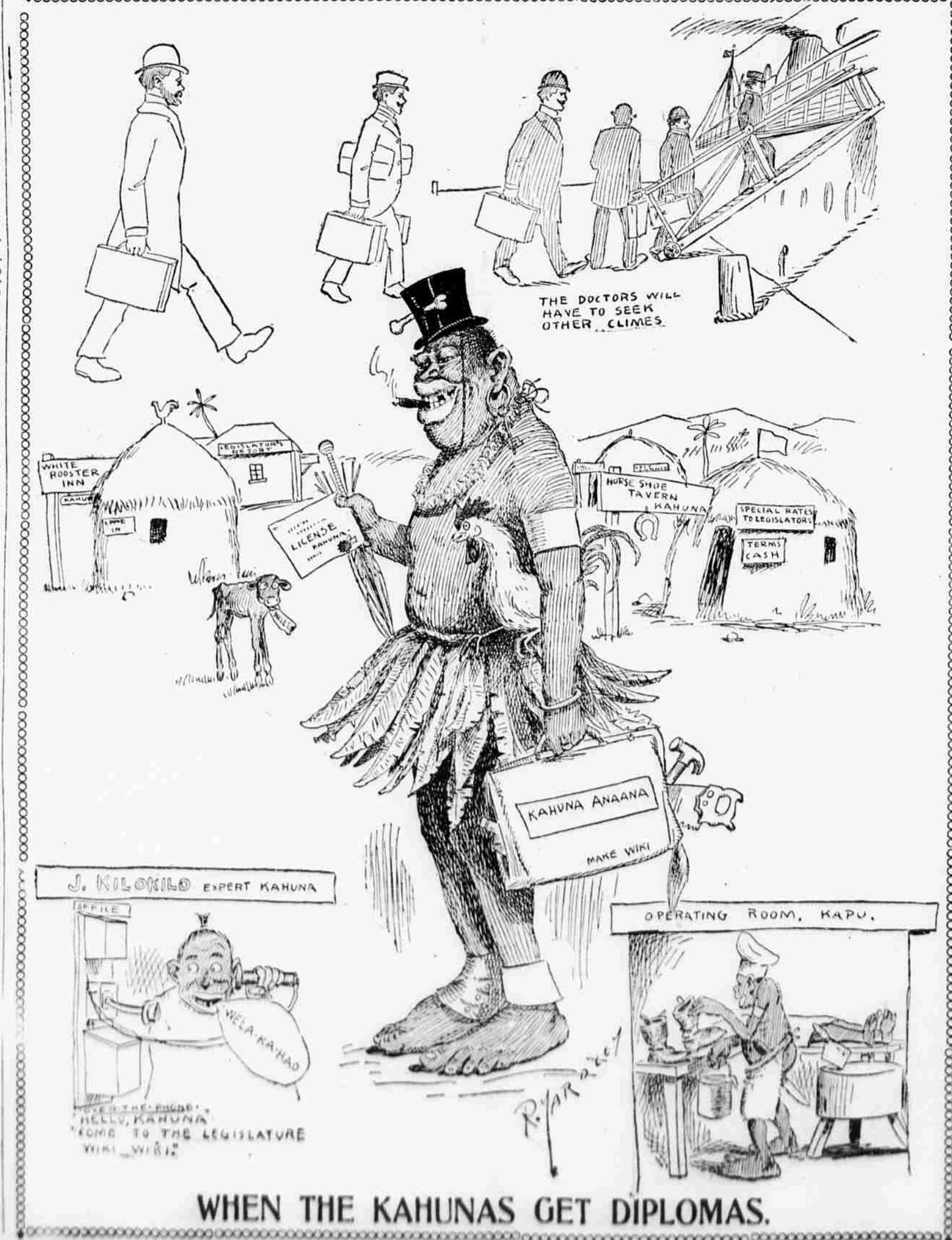
Beckley then made inquiries concerning a woman named Anna Bridges, whom he had seen at Kaili Receiving Station on Tuesday. She had been declared by the physicians as a "suspect" wherein she was not a leper, but declared a leper and sent to Molokai. He thought there was an explanation due from any member of that original board as to why she should, so many years ago, have been doomed to incarceration at the Settlement, really and after a decade had passed to be declared only a suspect. He considered that an injustice had been done her, and there might be many others as well. The associations which that woman had had all these years were probably such that she was tainted by contact after being sent to Molokai. He asked if there had been any others so treated. Secretary Wilcox said that two persons had been removed from the Settlement after being declared lepers to be given treatment by Dr. Goto, but had afterwards been returned to Kalaupapa. Representative Beckley asked that the board look into this woman's history.

The question of the number of horses which each leper should be allowed to own, was brought up. Some of the patients claimed that certain of their fellows had as many as eight or nine, while others had none at all, and they believed the animals should be more evenly distributed. Superintendent Reynolds said that no fresh horses were allowed to be brought to Molokai, and that if any "evening up" was effected, it would have to be done with the animals already there.

Senator Kanuha presented two bills to Mr. Lowrey, the chairman pro tem, which had already been introduced into the Legislature, and on which he desired information from the board. One related to vaccination, and the other to the licensing of physicians.

At 6 o'clock Senator Baldwin suggested that an adjournment be taken, and that the legislators and health board meet again at an early date. An arrangement was effected whereby they meet tomorrow night at 7:30 o'clock at the Board of Health office to continue the discussion.

A rumor has it that some of the members of the Legislature are considering the passage of a resolution of "want of confidence" in the Governor of the Territory. It is said that the refusal on the part of the Governor to give answers concerning the Governor's Commissioner J. P. Brown is the cause of the absurd proposal.



WHEN THE KAHUNAS GET DIPLOMAS.